

Application S/N 10/522,858  
Amendment dated 02/28/2006  
Reply to Office Action of 01/06/2006

## REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 8-12 are pending in the present application. Claim 8 has been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 2-4 and 9-12 will remain in the present application.

### 1. Regarding the Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4 and 9-12 as being indefinite, because the definition of "n" would allegedly encompass any number, including negative, fractional, and imaginary numbers.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 2, 10, and 12 to define "n" as an integer comprised between 2 and 15000. This limitation was previously defined in independent claim 8, which the Examiner had conceded to be directed at allowable subject matter.

Because claims 3-4 and 9 depend on now allowable claim 2, and claim 11 depends on now allowable claim 10, then claims 3-4, 9, and 11 are now also allowable. Claim 8 has been canceled as redundant, as the subject matter of claim 8 is now included in all claims.

In view of the foregoing, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 112 is respectfully requested.

### 2. Regarding the Rejection under 35 USC § 102(b).

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4, 9, 10, and 12 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,085,134 to Redmore, because this reference would anticipate the limitation of  $M = H$  and  $n = 1$ .

Accordingly, Applicant has amended all independent claims (claims 2, 10, and 12) to exclude  $n = 1$ . Further, Applicant has defined "M" in claim 9 as alkali metal or ammonium, excluding hydrogen.

Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection under 35 USC 102(b) is respectfully requested.

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## CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If it is felt that direct communication would serve to advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record, Franco A. Serafini, by telephone, fax, or e-mail.

Dated: February 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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